# Synopsis of
# The Usage of Switzerland's Imperforate *Sitting Helvetia* issue of 1854 – 1863

By Steve P. Turchik

**This Traditional Postal exhibit is the Number 1 World -Class Swiss imperforate *Sitting Helvetia* exhibit, a 44-year effort.** The issue is one of the Swiss classics, celebrating its 150th birthday in 2004, commonly called ***Strubel.***

### Purpose of the Exhibit

Because 2004 was the 150th anniversary, the exhibit is to help show as many different facets of this popular Swiss collecting area, and have the exhibit serve as a resource for current ongoing research dealing with areas of color, silk threads & usages.

### What is Shown

There are individual items, multiple items on and off cover, different stamp combinations, destinations, production , printing, and color varieties, bisected stamps on cover, different cancellations, postal markings, and mixed franking covers. **This exhibit is special for the following reasons:**

- **The exhibit shows all 31 recognized items on cover, also a copy of a newly discovered variety now being discussed by the Swiss philatelic experts, and is the only *Strubel* exhibit with a single use cover of every value known on cover.**
- **It is the only 10-frame *Strubel* exhibit shown in the United States, and it has more unique *Strubel* items then has been shown anywhere at one time**
- **The present structure is built around many items from past multiple grand award winning exhibits, and contains destination covers not readily known at the time of those exhibits.**
- **The exhibit contains the finest copy of the second rarest Swiss stamp (it has been previously exhibited as a single item in *The Court of Honor* at several shows).**

### Organization & Presentation

By virtue of the way the stamps were issued with embedded silk threads of various colors, using the classification of the *Zumstein* Specialized Catalog of each issue i.e., Aa, A, B, etc., the 7 different issues are divided into three parts: For this issue only, because of the vast variety, experts recommend the use of the numbers, and has been used with all past grand award winners.

1st Period 1854 – 1855, **Munich** printing (Aa, A) green threads.
2nd Period 1855 – 1857 **Bern** printing (C, D,E) different colored threads.
3rd Period 1857 – 1863, **Bern** printing (F, G) green threads.

### Quality and Challenge Factor

This issue is one of the Swiss classics, and the items are now over 150 years old. Examples of the stamps, covers (or on piece items) are of very highest quality available . There are no damaged or space fillers. Because of such a comprehensive exhibit, it has taken 44 years to accumulate the vast number of rare items that are needed in the exhibit. Many items are in quantities of 20 or less. **Exceptional items are matted in red.** Examples of singles are used throughout the exhibit, but there it is difficult to show which are more rare than the others. **Most thin paper items have certificates.**

### References


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